



SEP 04 2002 IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-16 as follows:

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1. A shift mechanism for a bicycle gear assembly, comprising:

a housing having an axis;

an actuating lever rotatable about the axis;

an actuating part rotatable about the axis and having a winding groove for receiving a tension cable, the actuating part having a toothing;

a pawl engageable with the toothing on the actuating part to wind up the tension cable;

first and second toothed segments connected to the actuating part;

a detent element having a first detent nose and a second detent nose, the first detent nose engageable with the first toothed segment and the second detent nose engageable with the second toothed segment such that when one of the first and second detent noses is disengaged from the toothed segment, the actuating part is turned by tensile force of the tension cable; and

a release lever operatively connected to the detent element for controlling the detent element.

2. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detent element is pivotably mounted on a pivot fixed in relation to the housing and substantially perpendicular to the axis.

3. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pivot is located a distance from the axis that substantially equals radii of the first and second toothed segments.

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4. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pivot is approximately centrally located between the first toothed segment and the second toothed segment.

5. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detent element is spring-loaded relative to the housing toward engagement with the second toothed segment.

6. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first toothed segment is rotationally connected to the actuating part by a first detent disk, and the second toothed segment is rotationally connected to the actuating part by a second detent disk.

7. A shift mechanism for a bicycle gear assembly, comprising:

a housing having an axis;
an actuating lever rotatable about the axis;
an actuating part disposed in the housing and rotatable about the axis, the actuating part having toothing and a winding groove for receiving a tension cable;
a pawl engageable with toothing on the actuating part to wind up the tension cable;
first and second toothed segments are connected to the actuating part;
a detent element engageable with the first and second toothed segment; and
a release lever operatively connected to the detent element, the release lever having a cam contour having at least one rising cam part and one falling cam part to allow at least two gear ratios to be shifted upon actuating the release lever, while the detent element engages the cam contour.

8. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 7, wherein the detent element includes a first detent nose engageable with the first toothed segment and a second detent nose engageable with the second toothed segment, and engages the release lever such that, when the release lever is actuated, the detent element performs a rocking motion, during which, in succession, a first detent nose, on the one hand, comes into engagement with the first toothed segment, and a second detent nose, on the other hand, comes into engagement with the second toothed segment.

9. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 7, wherein the detent element has an edge that engages the cam contour on the release lever.

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10. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 9, wherein the edge is part of an extension on the detent element.

11. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 7, wherein the release lever is designed as a trigger lever that returns to a rest position (N) through the restoring force of a spring after each actuation.

12. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pawl is pivotably mounted on the actuating lever for engaging the toothing connected to the actuating part.

13. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first toothed segment is rotationally connected to the actuating part by a first detent disk, and the second toothed segment is rotationally connected to the actuating part by a second detent disk and the toothing is connected to one of the first and second detent disks.

14. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 13, wherein the toothing is integrally connected to the second detent disk.

15. The shift mechanism as claimed in claim 12, wherein the pawl is out of engagement with the toothing in the rest position of the actuating lever.

16. A shift mechanism for a bicycle gear assembly, comprising:

a housing having an axis;

an actuating lever rotatable about the axis;

an actuating part rotatable about the axis, the actuating part having toothing and a winding groove for receiving a tension cable, the actuating lever controlling the actuating part;

a pawl engageable with toothings on the actuating part to wind up the tension cable:

first and second toothed segments connected to the actuating part; and

a release lever alternately engageable with the first toothed segment and the second toothed segment.

the actuating lever having, relative to the actuating part, at least one stop engageable with a stop extension when a first or a last gear ratio is reached, thereby distinguishing the rest position (I) of the actuating lever in the first gear ratio and/or the rest position (II) of the actuating lever in the last gear ratio from the normal rest position (N) of the actuating lever in the remaining gear ratios.